



NASA Weekly Update

Week of February 5 - 12, 2007

Feb 7: THEMIS Launch Aboard Delta II on Feb. 15: Launch of NASA's THEMIS spacecraft is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 15 from Pad 17-B at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. The launch window is 6:08 to 6:26 p.m. EST, a duration of 18 minutes. NASA's Launch Services Program at the Kennedy Space



Technicians place the five THEMIS satellites inside the nose fairing of their Delta II rocket.

Center is responsible for the launch of THEMIS aboard a Delta II rocket with the launch service being conducted by the United Launch Alliance. THEMIS is an acronym for Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms. THEMIS consists of five identical probes that will track violent, colorful eruptions near the North Pole. This will be the largest number of scientific satellites NASA ever launched into orbit aboard a single rocket. For more information on THEMIS, including NASA TV coverage, go to: www.nasa.gov/themis.

Feb 7: NASA's Shuttle Atlantis Rolls to Vehicle Assembly Building: NASA's space shuttle Atlantis completed a milestone to move it one step closer to a targeted March launch. Early Wednesday drivers moved Atlantis from the Orbiter Processing Facility to the Vehicle Assembly Building at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The next milestone for Atlantis is the 3.4-mile trip to Launch Pad 39A on Wednesday, Feb. 14. First motion of the vehicle out of the building is targeted for 7 a.m. NASA TV will provide live coverage of the rollout of Atlantis to the launch pad beginning at 7 a.m. EST Wednesday, Feb. 14. For NASA TV downlink, streaming video and scheduling information, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>. For more information on the STS-117 mission and crew, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>.

Feb 7: Statement Regarding the Status of Lisa Nowak: The following is a statement from Michael Coats, director of NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, regarding the status of astronaut Lisa Nowak. "We are deeply saddened by this tragic event. The charges against Lisa Nowak are serious ones that must be decided by the judicial system. She is officially on 30-day leave and has been removed from flight status and all mission-related activities. We will continue to monitor developments in the case." For NASA Deputy Administrator Shana Dale's remarks at the Feb. 7 Media Briefing, go to: http://www.nasa.gov/pdf/169028main_dale_nowak.pdf.

Feb 8: First African-American Spacewalker Speaks at National Conference: NASA and the National Institute of Aerospace (NIA) will host the 12th Annual Pre-Service Teacher Conference Feb. 15-17 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, in Alexandria, Va. Former Astronaut Bernard Harris, Jr., will open the conference as the keynote speaker Feb. 15. For information about conference events, visit: <http://research.nianet.org/pstc/index.html>.

Feb 8: NASA Awards SOFIA Development, Engineering to L-3 Communications: NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center has awarded a contract

to L-3 Communications Integrated Systems, L.P., of Waco, Texas, for continued developmental and engineering work on the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA). For more details on SOFIA and its mission on the Web, visit: www.sofia.usra.edu.

Feb 8: NASA Solicits Ideas for Constellation Ground Work:

NASA has issued a request for information soliciting ideas on ground processing services for its Constellation Program and the next generation of space vehicles. For information about the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate and the Request for Information, visit: <http://exploration.nasa.gov>.

Feb 7: Spacecraft Set to Reach Milestone, Reports Technical Glitches:

NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter spacecraft this month is set to surpass the record for the most science data returned by any Mars spacecraft. While continuing to produce data at record levels, engineers are examining why two instruments are intermittently not performing entirely as planned. All other spacecraft instruments are operating well and continue to return science data. Additional information about the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter is available on the Web at: <http://www.nasa.gov/mro>.

Feb 6: NASA Presents Quality Awards to Teledyne and Barrios:

NASA presented its highest honor for quality and technical performance, the George M. Low Award, to two companies committed to innovative management, process quality and customer service. For more information about the George M. Low Award, visit: www.hq.nasa.gov/office/codeq/gml/.

Endeavour (OV-105)

Mission: STS-118 - 22nd International Space Station

Flight (13A.1) - S5 Truss Segment

Vehicle: Endeavour (OV-105)

Location: Orbiter Processing Facility Bay 2

Launch Date: Targeted for June 28, 2007

Launch Pad: 39A

Crew: Kelly, Hobaugh, Williams, Morgan, Mastracchio, Caldwell and Anderson

Inclination/Orbit Altitude: 51.6 degrees/122 nautical miles



Mission control teams are working to assess systems affected by a power loss aboard the International Space Station early Sunday morning. The station's three crew members were not in any danger, but it did turn an off-duty day into a full work shift. About 1 a.m. EST, one of the power channels of the P4 solar array electrical system went down because of a glitch with a device known as a direct current switching unit. It controls power distribution from the solar array to the battery systems and other hardware.

The glitch resulted in a temporary loss of communications, and shut down some equipment, including a few science facilities and heating units and control moment gyroscope #2. The station never lost orientation control, but it operated most of the day with two of four gyros. They are still investigating what caused the glitch, but they believe it was an isolated event.



Weekly Status Reports



Atlantis (OV-104)

Mission: STS-117 - 21st International Space Station

Flight (13A) - S3/S4 Truss Segment Solar Arrays

Vehicle: Atlantis (OV-104)

Location: Vehicle Assembly Building High Bay 1

Launch Date: Targeted for March 15, 2007

Launch Pad: 39A

Crew: Sturckow, Archambault, Reilly, Swanson, Forrester and Olivas

Inclination/Orbit Altitude: 51.6 degrees/122 nautical miles

- **Feb 15:** Launch of THEMIS
- **Feb 27 – 28:** NASA Senate Days
- **Feb 29:** New Horizons will make its closest pass to Jupiter on Feb. 28, threading its path through an "aim point" 1.4 million miles (2.3 million kilometers) from the center of Jupiter.
- **NET March 15:** Launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis from Kennedy Space Center.
- **March 19:** Landing of the Expedition 14 crew at Kazakhstan's Baikonur Cosmodrome.
- **NET March:** Launch of the Expedition 15 crew. The crew includes Commander Fyodor Yurchikhin and Flight Engineer Oleg Kotov. Williams will finish her remaining time of her six-month tour of duty on the station as a member of Expedition 15 crew.

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